

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

14 JAN 1986

OLL 86-0152

The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz
Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

With reference to the Director's 31 July 1985 letter (OLL 85-1616/2), I wish to advise you that further search of CIA files has failed to uncover any information concerning Mr. Paul's 24 April 1985 article in The Wall Street Journal which alleged that a CIA expert said the United States Government already has a list of 25 or so missing Americans who are living today in Laos.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) has informed us that your Subcommittee staff would like an amplification of our 31 July letter in order to make it clear that the letter does not imply either (a) that a list of American prisoners currently living in Laos exists, or (b) that DIA possesses or has provided to the Subcommittee documentation which was or could be used as the basis for the creation of such a list.

In response to that request, we offer the following: it was not our intent in the 31 July letter to imply that a list of POWs currently living in Laos exists. Rather, we referred to two dated documents (a 1966 telegram from the American Embassy in Vientiane and a 1981 USDAO Bangkok message) which made reference to numbers of POWs in which the totals were similar to The Wall Street Journal article. These reports were brought to your attention on the possibility, admittedly remote, that the 24 April 1985 Wall Street Journal article might have based its information on either or both of these documents. We wish to reiterate that we have found no information which reflects the existence anywhere of a list of POW/MIAs currently living in Laos as claimed in The Wall Street Journal.

We would also like to clarify the statement in our 31 July letter that the DIA had previously provided the above-stated documents to you. The DIA did not provide you with paper copies of these documents, but the DIA has indicated to us that they brought these documents to your attention during a briefing in April/May 1985.

Sincerely,

ja/Charles A. Briggs

Charles A. Briggs
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

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31 JUL 1985

The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz
Chairman
Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As stated in our interim response of 18 June, we queried the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) on the existence of a list of Americans POW/MIA and received from them copies of two documents which they previously had provided to you. It is possible the sources of The Wall Street Journal article of 24 April 1985 based their information on either or both of these documents.

This Agency will continue to research its files for information that might clarify the references made by the sources of The Wall Street Journal article. You will be advised should our research uncover any pertinent documents.

With reference to your questions on Mr. Paul, I believe the Subcommittee, in consultation with its counsel, is the only appropriate body to address these issues.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

